

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

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INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

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TAGS: PFOR PO

SUBJ: SOARES-PEREIRA INTERVIEWS

REF: LISBON 1954

1. SUMMARY. INITIAL SOARES-PEREIRA MEETING TOOK PLACE HOME PRIMINISTER DIOUF FOR TWO HOURS NIGHT MAY 16. NO FORMAL COMMUNIQUE AS YET BUT BOTH MEN GAVE BRIEF PRESS INTERVIEW. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. PAIGC SECRETARY GENERAL ARISTIDES PEREIRA FLEW IN FROM CONAKRY AT 1950 MAY 16, WAITED AT RESIDENCE PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF FOR ARRIVAL NEW PORTUGUESE FONMIN MARIO SOARES, WHO LANDED AT 2300, CAME DIRECTLY TO PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE (IN ABSENCE PRESIDENT SENGHOR ON FAR EASTERN TRIP). ACCORDING TO AL PRESS THEY HELD TWO HOURS PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION.

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3. LE SOLEIL PUBLISHES INTERVIEWS AFTER MEETING WITH BOTH. SOARES STATED THEY HAD MADE CONCRETE STEP TOWARD PEACE. IN HIS COUNTRY UNDER SALAZAR HE WAS QTE A TRAITOR, A PLAQUE FOR THE COUNTRY UNQTE. BECAUSE OF HIS ANTI-COLONIALIST IDEAS. NOW HE VERY HAPPY HAVE BEGUN PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION. PROTUGUESE GOVT WITH SPINOLA AUTHORIZATION HAS AFFIRMED SOLEMNLY BEFORE WORLD THAT PORTUGAL WILL RESPECT PRINCIPLES SELF-DETERMINATION AND WILL ACCEPT ALL ITS CONSEQUENCES. IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS STOP THE WAR AND FIGHTING, AND FOR THIS IT NECESSARY NEGOTIATE DIFFERENT PRACTICAL MODALITIES FOR APPLICATION PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. QTE. THE CONVERSATIONS WHICH WE HAVE BEGUN WILL PERMIT US TO ESTABLISH A CEASE-FIRE AND IN PEACE TO CONSTRUCT THE FUTURE IN LIBERTY. UNQTE.

4. ASKED HOW HE FORESAW CEASEFIRE, SOARES SAID QTE. WE DISPOSED IMMEDIATELY OPEN CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA. UNQTE. HE HAD ALREADY MET AGUSTINO NETO IN BRUSSELS, EXPECTS VERY SOON MEET OTHER AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS.

5. QUESTION WHY DAKAR CHOSEN ALLOWED SOARES MAKE EXPECTED EULOGY SENGHOR ROLE BRINGING TALKS ABOUT. SOARES WHILE IN EXILE HAD LONG MAINTAINED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH SENGHOR, ONE OF CHIEFS OF STATE WHO NEVER DESPAIRED OF SEEING PORTUGAL AS COUNTRY CAPABLE ASSUMING ITS OBLIGATIONS IN WORLD AND OF ENGAGING IN DECOLONIZATION PROCESS. HE HELPED US, HE STIMULATED US. ONLY NATURAL CHOSSE SENEGAL FOR FIRST CONTACTS TOWARD DIALOGUE WITH AFRICA.

6. FINALLY, ASKED HIS OPINION AMILCAR CABRAL, SOARES STATED HIS SINCEREST HOMAGE TO QTE. MEMORY OF THE GLORIOUS LEADER AMILCAR CABRAL WHO ALWAYS DECLARED HE WAS NOT MAKING WAR ON PORTUGAL BUT ON PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM. UNQTE. HIS COMBAT NOT IN VAIN AND SOARES DEEPLY REGRETTEED CABRAL COULD NOT BE HERE FOR THIS DIALOGUE. HE ENDED WITH TRIBUTE TO PRIMIN DIOUF AND SAID GOP IN HURRY REESTABLISH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL.

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7. PEREIRA ECHOED SOARES WORDS ON SIGNIFICANCE THIS FIRST STEP, A MEETING BETWEEN TWO MILITANTS. ASKED ABOUT PAIGC COORDINATION WITH ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE MOVEMENTS, HE SAID IT DOES NOT YET EXIST, BUT IS DESIRABLE AND WE WORKING THIS DIRECTION. MEANWHILE THERE ARE BILATERAL CONTACTS.

8. ASKED IF CONDITIONS ENUNCIATED BY PORTUGUESE LEADERS

SEEMED AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR DIALOGUE, PEREIRA EVADED
DIRECT ANSWER, BUT SAID PRESENT PORTUGUESE TEAM HAS
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY BE REMEMBERED BY HISTORY AS HAVING
SUCCEEDED IN FINDING SOLUTION PROBLEM DECOLONIZATION,
AND CREATING SOLID BASIS FOR COOPERATION WITH PORTUGUESE
AFRICAN PEOPLES.
AGGREY

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